

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05509 151103Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05

/089 W

-----151235Z 088501 /22

R 151003Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7008

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, US, JA

SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON MANSFIELD APPOINTMENT

REF: TOKYO 4681

SUMMARY: JAPAN'S EDITORIAL WRITERS HAVE REACTED TO MANSFIELD APPOINTMENT IN TERMS MORE FAVORABLE THAN ANY SEEN HERE, INCLUDING THOSE GREETING APPOINTMENT OF REISCHAUER. ALL CITED SENATOR'S PRESTIGE, INFLUENCE AND KNOWLEDGE AND TERMED APPOINTMENT UNPRECEDENTED SYMBOL OF IMPORTANCE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL MAJOR JAPANESE DAILY NEWSPAPERS GREETED APPOINTMENT OF SENATOR MANSFIELD AS AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN WITH HIGHEST PRAISE IN MEMORY. CITING SENATOR'S CHARACTER AND EXPERIENCE AS PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR ASSIGNMENT, WRITERS NOTED MANSFIELD'S LONG AND DISTINGUISHED SENATE CAREER, PRESTIGE AND EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF ASIA AS SUPERB QUALIFICATIONS FOR TOKYO POST. EDITORIALS STATED THAT NEW AMBASSADOR WOULD ENJOY ESPECIALLY CLOSE LINK WITH PRESIDENT AND INTERPRETED THIS AS SIGNAL OF NEW AMERICAN RESPECT FOR JAPAN. YOMIURI STATED THAT APPOINTMENT, TOGETHER WITH THAT LAST YEAR OF FORMER POLITBURO MEMBER DMITRII POLYANSKY AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR MEANT THAT BOTH SUPER-

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POWERS RECOGNIZED TOKYO AS "PIVOT" OF EAST ASIAN DIPLOMACY. NIHON KEIZAI WORRIED THAT PRESENCE OF HIGH POWERED AMBASSADOR WOULD PRESURE JAPAN TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE IN EAST ASIA.

2. ALL MAJOR DAILIES ANALYZED SENATOR'S 1976 REPORT FOR EVIDENCE OF INFLUENCE ON CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICIES, AND CONCLUDED THAT MANSFIELD HAD BEEN A SOURCE OF MANY IMPORTANT IDEAS, INCLUDING UN

SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT FOR JAPAN, NEED FOR CONSTANT CLOSE CONSULTATION, PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM KOREA AND AID TO ASEAN.

3. EVEN AKABATA, THE COMMUNIST PRESS ORGAN, WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH APPOINTMENT, MANAGING ONLY MILD WARNING THAT MANSFIELD WOULD TRY TO LULL DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN JAPAN WITH DOVISH STATEMENTS. PERHAPS OUR FAVORITE CRITICISM OF APPOINTMENT CAME FROM VETERAN FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTER WHO WORRIED ALOUD THAT SENATOR WAS "TOO ILLUSTRIOUS" FOR JAPAN AND THAT POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS WOULD BE "SHY IN HIS PRESENCE".
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO05509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770131-0737
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 4681
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2788654
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON MANSFIELD APPOINTMENT
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, US, JA, (MANSFIELD, MIKE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1eecbba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009